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ABSTRACT

This book examines the careers and contributions of four pioneering deans of women and the innovations they created as they worked to enhance opportunities and community for women. The women are Marion Talbot, Mary Bidwell Breed, Ada Louise Comstock, and Lois Kimball Mathews. The book analyzes how they developed a profession out of their dedication to making universities in the 20th century a better place for women than they were in the 19th century. It examines the stages of the professionalization process, strategies they used to solidify and institutionalize their work, and networks and organizations they built to communicate and further their progress. The seven chapters include: (1) "Introduction"; (2) "The Wise and Pious Matrons"; (3) "The Catalyst and the Hub"; (4) "Getting Organized"; (5) "Opening Minds and Opening Doors"; (6) "More Than Wise and Pious Matrons"; and (7) "A Legacy Assessed." (Contains approximately 350 references.) (SM)

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